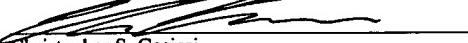


JPW

The undersigned certifies that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as prepaid first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 15, 2005.

  
Christopher S. Casieri

Docket No. 4296-166 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Harunori Hirao	:	Customer No.: 26817
	:	
Serial No.: 10/632,762	:	Group Art Unit: 1621
Filed: August 1, 2003	:	Examiner: Karl J. Puttlitz
Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCTION OF ACRYLIC ACID	:	Confirmation No.: 5045
	:	
	X	

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows: